

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4870

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MASS, CG, PFOR

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: WITHDRAWAL OF MOROCCAN AND EGYPTIAN
FORCES

REF: KINSHASA 4837 (NOTAL)

1. MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR CHORFI TOLD ME MAY 22 THAT, FOLLOWING FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI'S VISIT TO SHABA AND MEETING WITH MOBUTU LAST WEEK, IT WAS DECIDED THAT MOROCCAN FORCES WOULD IMMEDIATELY START PREPARING TO DEPART AND THAT ALL WOULD RETURN HOME WITHIN NEXT TWO-THREE WEEKS. (REFTEL REPORTS MOBUTU'S STATEMENT THAT MOROCCANS WOULD BE OUT BY JUNE 15 AT THE LATEST.) CHORFI SAID NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN MADE REGARDING DISPOSITION OF SIZABLE QUANTITY OF EQUIPMENT THE MOROCCANS HAD BROUGHT WITH THEM. HE SAID SENIOR FAZ OFFICERS WERE PRESSING TO HAVE MOROCCANS LEAVE AT LEAST SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT BEHIND FOR ZAIRIAN USE. CHORFI
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SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOZ HAD NOT YET OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THIS, ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT THE MATTER MIGHT BE DISCUSSED WITH KING HASSAN WHEN MOBUTU VISITS MOROCCO NEXT MONTH. (CHORFI SAID MOBUTU IS ALSO EXPECTED TO VISIT PARIS.)

2. ACCORDING TO CHORFI, TOTAL MOROCCAN CASUALTIES IN SHABA ARE SEVEN KILLED (THREE IN ACCIDENTS, FOUR BY MINES), ABOUT TEN

WOUNDED IN COMBAT, AND ANOTHER FIFTEEN-TWENTY HURT ACCIDENTALLY.

3. CHORFI SAID MOROCCAN FORCES CONSIDERED THEIR MISSION SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED WITH THE CAPTURE OF DILOLO MAY 20. THEY WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN REMAINING OPERATIONS IN SANDOA-KAPANGA AREA, WHICH FROM THE BEGINNING HAD BEEN RESERVED FOR FAZ ALONE.

4. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR MOHAMED FOUAD EL BIDEWY TOLD ME MAY 23 THAT EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL (MIRAGE PILOTS, MECHANICS) WOULD ALSO BE LEAVING IN NEXT FEW DAYS. THEY HAVE REMAINED IN KINSHASA AREA AND NEVER DID SEE ACTION IN SHABA. EGYPTIAN MEDICAL PERSONNEL WILL LEAVE EARLY JUNE; WHILE THEY DID GO TO KOLWEZI AND KAMINA, THEY FOUND MEDICAL SITUATION WELL IN HAND AND NO NEED FOR THEIR SERVICES.

5. BOTH MOROCCAN AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS HAVE INDICATED THAT EGYPTIANS ARE NOT TOO HAPPY WITH THE GOZ'S FAILURE TO MAKE MORE USE OF THEIR PRESENCE HERE. FRENCH AMBASSADOR BELIEVES ZAIRIANS HAVE MADE MISTAKE IN NOT ALLOWING PILOTS AT LEAST TO SPEND SOME TIME IN COMBAT AREA, THEREBY JUSTIFYING THEIR DEPLOYMENT TO ZAIRE. ON THE OTHER HAND, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR CLAIMS THAT PILOTS HAVE SERVED USEFUL FUNCTION IN ASSURING PROTECTION OF VITAL CAPITAL AREA.

6. AS FOR THE DEPARTURE OF MOROCCAN FORCES, GENERAL BABIA IS NOT AS SANGUINE AS PRESIDENT MOBUTU REGARDING THE SITUATION IN THE SANDOA-KAPANGA AREA. HE ESTIMATES IT WILL REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF TWO WEEKS TO CLEAR UP AND ACCORDINGLY IS NOT EAGER FOR THE MOROCCANS TO LEAVE. HE TOLD CHIEF ZAMISH THAT UPON

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CAPTURE OF KASAJI THE HOSTILE FORCES RETREATED NORTH AND PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH ON ZAIRIAN SOIL. HE NOTED THAT INTERCEPTS OF HOSTILE FORCES' MESSAGES INDICATE REINFORCEMENTS IN THE FORM OF RECRUITS ARE STILL LOCATED IN ANGOLA AND THAT THE KATANGAN COMMANDER STILL IN SHABA HAS REQUESTED THEY BE USED IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR. BABIA IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR KOLWEZI MAY 24 TO TRY TO IMPRESS UPON MOBUTU THAT THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THAT SECTOR REMAINS CRITICAL. HE WILL RECOMMEND THAT THE MOROCCANS REMAIN IN THE DILOLO AREA WITH SOME ZAIRIAN FORCES WHILE A MAIN COLUMN MOVES NORTH TO ASSIST IN THE RECAPTURE OF SANDOA-KAPANGA.

CUTLER

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